

# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.

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## *NASA and University of North Dakota Sign DC-8 Agreement*

NASA has signed a cooperative agreement with the University of North Dakota (UND), Grand Forks, to house and operate the agency's DC-8 jet aircraft. The purpose of the agreement is to create a National Suborbital Education and Research Center (NSERC) at the university with the DC-8 suborbital laboratory as the centerpiece.

The agreement is intended to expand the science conducted using the DC-8 and enhance hands-on educational opportunities for students. The agreement is valued at \$25 million over a five year period. Transfer of the aircraft to the university is targeted for fall 2005, pending completion of a safety review. The aircraft will be housed at the Grand Forks Air Force Base.

"We are extremely pleased to reach this agreement with the University of North Dakota," said Ghassem Asrar, NASA's deputy associate administrator for the Science Mission Directorate, Washington. "The DC-8 is a national asset, and we look forward to expanding its use in both the educational and research communities."

"We are delighted UND will be operating NASA's DC-8, a premier scientific resource, for the benefit of the entire world," said university president Charles Kupchella. "This is a natural collaboration because of the strengths, abilities, and interests of our science and educational programs in environmental, atmospheric, aviation, and engineering sciences."



NASA DC-8 aircraft

NASA Photo

The DC-8 has been part of NASA science programs since 1986. It has supported satellite validation, Earth science studies, and the development of remote sensing techniques for space-based observing systems.

It has operated from several NASA centers and deployed worldwide to support

research including ozone depletion, tropical rainforest ecology, hurricane studies, and ice sheets.

Its most recent campaign was to New England last January to support arctic ozone studies and validation of NASA's Aura satellite.

UND is home to the Northern Great Plains Center for People and the Environment, which will have oversight for the NSERC.

The university also is home to the largest collegiate aviation program in the United States. It maintains and operates 120 aircraft throughout the country, including 80 aircraft in Grand Forks.

The aircraft support aviation, atmospheric sciences, space studies and computer science education activities.

Through the agreement, the university will maintain, operate and manage educational and science flight missions. NASA retains operational control responsibilities including safety, airworthiness and mission management.

## *George Postell Receives Agency Honor Award*



The Exceptional Service Medal was recently presented to George W. Postell by Acting Administrator, Fred Gregory, at NASA Headquarters.

This medal is awarded for significant sustained performance characterized by unusual initiative or creative ability that clearly demonstrates substantial improvements in engineering, aeronautics, space flight, administration, support, or space-related endeavors which contribute to NASA's programs.

The citation for the award reads: "For outstanding achievement in planning and conducting the NASA Fractional Aircraft Ownership Demonstration Program"

Postell also was a member of the Headquarters Aircraft Fractional Ownership Demonstration Program Team receiving a Group Achievement Award. The citation reads:

"For exceptional achievement in planning and implementing the NASA Aircraft Fractional Demonstration Program"

## *Wallops Shorts.....*

### *Balloon Launch*

A NASA scientific balloon was launched from Ft. Sumner, N.M., on June 1. The 39.57 million cubic foot balloon carried the Nuclear Compton Telescope (NCT), a balloon-borne gamma-ray telescope designed to study astrophysical sources of nuclear line emission with high spectral and spatial resolution. Dr. Steven Boggs, University of California, Berkley is the principal investigator. Total flight time was 9 hours 7 minutes.

### *Congressional Visit*

Virginia Congresswoman Thelma Drake and two staffers visited Wallops on June 2. They were given an overview of Wallops activities by Senior Managers and a tour.

## A Chilly May by Ted Wilz, Senior Meteorologist

May 2004 was one of the warmest on record, with average temperatures about seven degrees above normal.

May 2005 was significantly cooler, with temperatures nearly four degrees below normal. While we saw 90 degrees or better twice during May 2004, the warmest temperature last month was 81 degrees on May 27.

There were six days when the maximum temperature did not reach 60 degrees, and 12 days that dipped into the 40's for the morning low temperature.

Although no new record high or low temperatures were set, the 40 degree reading on Cinco de Maya morning was the coolest temperature of the month.

May was not an exceptionally wet month. A "Nor'easter" brought 1.57 inches on rainfall on May 20, and a second "Nor'easter" type low caused just over 1/2 inch of rain on May 6, the two most significant of nine "rainfall days" that occurred last month.

The May 20 storm brought 30 mph winds, while the May 6 storm brought the strongest winds of the month at 38 mph.

We totaled 2.93 inches of rainfall, which is .22 inches below the average monthly total, making May a cool, somewhat dry prelude to summer.

July brings average high temperatures in the low to mid 80's, with inland locations often pushing well into the 90's.

Temperatures are often moderated by an afternoon sea breeze, making the coast 6 to 10 degrees cooler than our inland neighbors. On occasion, we will get an offshore breeze pushing temperatures well into the 90's. On four occasions in the past we have reached 100 degrees. In 1993, we set the all-time monthly high of 101 degrees on July 10.

Overnight lows during July average in the upper 60's. The all-time low for July was considerably cooler when the morning low reached 51 degrees on July 2, 1965.



July is one of our warmest and wettest months. Summer heat often brings afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorm development.

Last July we had a monthly record 12.1 inches of rain, well above July's average rainfall of 3.77 inches. We had 4.46 inches of rain last July 28, which set a new daily record rainfall for Wallops Island. Most of this rainfall was the result of showers and thunderstorms, with no tropical systems reaching the area to further accentuate the total.



## Wallops Mail Services

Did you forget to mail your bills this morning? No problem!

Wallops employees located on the Main Base can drop their personal mail off at either of three locations: the Building E-7 Wallops Island Post Office, the USPS drop box outside of Building E-7, or the USPS drop box on the west side of Building E-107.

Employees located on Wallops Island should use the Assawoman Post Office on Route 679, Atlantic Road. The Wallops Mail Services Center (WMSC) processes official mail only.



The WMSC commits to processing incoming, outgoing, and interoffice mail in a timely and cost-effective manner. The WMSC is located at Building E-7 and is open from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Call Terry Ewell, WFF Mail Program Manager (Acting), at x1133 to express any concerns or suggestions for improved services.

**June 6, 1950**

A Ramjet missile launched by NACA at Wallops Island accelerated under ramjet power to Mach 3.1 at 67,200 feet altitude.



2 bedroom apartment, Chincoteague, quiet convenient location \$500/mo + elec. plus \$500. security deposit. Available July. Jerry Doyon (757) 824-0530 leave a message

## Beginners GPS Class

Monday and Tuesday evening,  
June 13 and 14 at Atlantic Firehouse

Space is limited: first come first served

Registration:

6:30 p.m., Monday, June 13

7 p.m., Tuesday, June 14

For more information call 824-6335

## Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

Come join the fun Saturday, July 2, NASA Night at Perdue Stadium as the Delmarva Shorebirds take on West Virginia Power



Game Starts @ 7:05 pm

The Voices of Wallops will sing the National Anthem to open the game.

Tickets are \$3 each and are available in the Exchange Store Building E-2. Names of those purchasing a ticket will be placed in a hat for a drawing with the winner tossing out the first pitch of the game!

Contact Karen Shannon @ x2020 for more information.

**60**  
years of  
**exploration**  
NASA Wallops Flight Facility  
1945-2005

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